



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Department of Juvenile Justice's Communications Office

For Immediate Release
March. 28, 2012

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**FAYETTE REGIONAL JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER
PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL MURAL PROJECT**

Lexington, Ky. - Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center has been selected as one of ten facilities throughout the nation to participate in the Emanuel Project. The Emanuel Project is a unique mural program that gives incarcerated youth the opportunity to visualize their full potential through a mural process with the nationally renowned artist, sculptor and painter Emanuel Martinez.

"The mural process utilizes the arts to engage and inspire students to work towards improving their academic performance, communication skills and behavioral patterns," says Louisa Craft Jornayvaz, program founder of the Emanuel Project and advocate for at-risk youth. "The murals are powerful and colorful and have a positive, long-lasting impact among students, staff, visitors and parents," she added.

The project is named after Emanuel Martinez who began his career as an artist at the age of 13. Emanuel painted his first mural at the Lookout Mountain School for Boys, a facility for juvenile offenders. Two years later, after being incarcerated three times and winning statewide art competitions, Emanuel established a reputation as an exceptionally talented artist. With the help of a prominent artist named Bill Longley, Emanuel enrolled back into school, graduated and won two art scholarships.

By the age of 22, Emanuel had worked with the most significant muralist in the world, David A. Siqueros, and had completed three art works that are now in the permanent collection of the National Museum of American Art Smithsonian Institution in

Washington, D.C.

As a muralist, painter and sculptor, Emanuel occupies an outstanding status among national and internationally known artists. Since establishing a studio in 1968, Martinez has received national acclaim as a forerunner of the contemporary mural movement in the U.S. He has received prestigious awards for his design capabilities and for engaging young people into art projects requiring high standards of workmanship.

“We are pleased to have been selected to take part in this outstanding program,” says Alichia Stanley, assistant superintendent of Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center. “It is a once in a life time opportunity for our youth and we look forward to being a part of what could be a life-changing experience for our students. We’re very much looking forward to getting started,” she added.

The students will begin painting a mural centered around themes of academics, education and career choices on April 2. The unveiling of the mural is scheduled for April 13 at Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center.

Seventeen murals have been completed in 12 juvenile detention centers in Georgia, Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, Colorado and Texas since the Emanuel Project began in January 2011. The project was founded by Denver artist and advocate for at-risk youth Louisa Craft Jornayvaz. For more information contact Dr. Randy Minnick, head of program development, at 229-938-7362 or rminnick@theminnickgroup.com.

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